

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

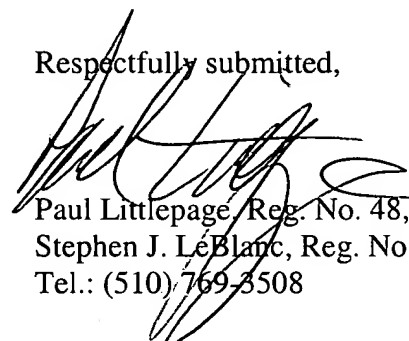
Prior to this amendment, claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-22, and 27-32 were pending and stood rejected in the application, while claim 32 was pending and objected to. In the previous action, claims 1, 3-4, 8, 16-18, and 21 were amended, while claims 7, 11, and 23-26 were canceled and new claims 27-32 were added.

Subject to a telephone conversation with the Examiner, Applicants herein cancel claims 5, 6, 8, 16-22 and 27-32 and add new claims 33-44, which correspond to claims allowed in Great Britain patent 2,363,936 B. Thus, in summary, with entry of this amendment, claims 1-4, 9-10, 12-15 and 33-44 will be pending and claims 5-8, 11 and 16-32 will be cancelled. A copy of the British patent and the office actions in that case are enclosed for the Examiner's reference. These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or agreement with the Examiner's position.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner does not agree that all claims are in condition for allowance, a telephone conference with the Examiner is hereby requested. Please telephone Stephen J. LeBlanc at (510) 769-3508.

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Respectfully submitted,



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